



Hampshire County Council.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

School Medical Officer,

ROBERT A. LYSTER, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,

for the Year

1918.

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FRONT OF CARD.

Name _____ School _____ Ad. No. _____
Address _____ Born _____ Vacc. Mks. _____

15.—HISTORY (Insert age of child at time of illness)										
1. Date Examined										Measles ...
2. Age										Whooping Cough
3. Height (in Inches)										Chicken Pox
4. Weight (in Pounds)										Diphtheria ...
5. Cleanliness { Body										Scarlet Fever (Scarlatina)
Head										Mumps ...
6. Clothing { Quantity										Small Pox ...
Repair										Rheumatism
Cleanliness										Tuberculosis
Boots										Fila ...
7. Sight										Other Illnesses
8. Teeth { Total										
Decayed										
9. Standard										
10. Attendance										
11. Cause of Irregularity										
12. Parents' Occupat'n { F.										
M.										
13. House { Bedrooms										
Living Rooms										
14. Persons in House { Over 14										
Under 14										

DIRECTIONS TO HEAD
TEACHER BY S.M.O.

BACK OF CARD.

Name		SPECIAL FEATURE		OBSERVATIONS BY MEDICAL OFFICER.		NOTICES ISSUED.	INITIALS, S.M.O.
Date of Examination.		DATE.					
1. Parents Present							
2. Nutrition							
3. Deformity							
4. Paralysis							
5. Rickets							
6. Tubercle	Glandular						
	Pulmonary						
	Osseous						
7. Skin Disease							
8. Heart Disease							
9. Lung Disease							
10. Anæmia							
11. Epilepsy							
12. Chorea							
13. Other Disease							
	Articulation						
	Breathing						
14. Nose and Throat	Tonsils						
	Adenoids						
	Glands						
15. Ears	Hearing						
	Discharge						
16. Eyes	Diseases of						
	Squint						
17. Vision (Distant and Near)							
18. Mental Capacity							



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1918

BY THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

In the opening sentences of the Report for the year 1917, reference was made to a circular issued by the Board of Education in December, 1915, on the subject of reports by School Medical Officers, and to the suggestion therein contained that in the abnormal circumstances prevailing, these reports should be on a much less detailed and comprehensive scale than in previous years. A further circular has since been issued by the Board giving their views as to the amount of work that should now be carried out seeing that hostilities have ceased, and that conditions will, it is hoped, become more normal. The Board's view is that the work may continue on the present reduced scale until the end of the year 1919, and that in 1920 routine medical inspection should recommence. This appears to be a very reasonable attitude to adopt, as it is not likely that before the beginning of 1920 it will be possible to resume the work on the old lines. This report, therefore, and its immediate successor will of necessity be very short compared with the reports of pre-war days.

Staff.

At the beginning of the year 1918, the staff consisted of the Deputy County Medical Officer, Dr. Wilkes, and Drs. Galbraith, Shed, Pakes, and Jacob. During the year Dr. Pakes resigned, and Dr. Alice Taylor, Dr. J. F. Gibbons, and Dr. W. J. Hart were appointed. Dr. Taylor remained in the area for only six months. Dr. Jacob resigned in April, 1919. Dr. Ashkenney and Dr. Troup, who had been on military service, resumed their duties under the County Council in January and April, 1919, respectively. At the time of writing, therefore, the Staff consists of the Deputy County Medical Officer, Dr. Wilkes, and Drs. Galbraith, Shed, Troup, Ashkenney, Gibbons, and Hart.

The many and increasing number of calls made upon the services of the Medical Officers in connection with other branches of County Council work have, to a great extent, reduced the amount of time available for school work, and it does not appear that it will be possible to continue much longer with the present staff. In the days of routine medical inspection, the intention was that four-sixths of the Medical Officer's time, that is, the equivalent of four men, should be given to school work, but since the outbreak of war the proportion has had to be reduced. With the resumption of routine medical inspection, and having regard to the other requirements referred to above, it will be necessary to increase the Staff.

Nurses.

The foregoing paragraphs give some idea of the difficulty of maintaining the Medical Staff at full strength, but it has been still more difficult, in fact, it has proved to be impossible, to secure an adequate staff of school nurses. As has been pointed out in previous reports, the school nurses are also health visitors and tuberculosis nurses, and the appointments are, therefore, to that extent much more attractive than those in many areas where separate staffs of nurses are employed for the different kinds of work. In spite of this attractiveness, however, there has not at any time during the year, except perhaps for a week or two, been a full complement of nurses. It is hoped, however, that with the cessation of hostilities and with the consequent release of a large number of nurses from their military duties, it will be possible to secure and to retain a full staff. As was pointed out in the Report for the Year 1917, the Staff was increased in July of that year to 14, and since that date various additions have been authorised, resulting in an authorised staff of 21 nurses. At the time of writing actually 16 are employed, and the Department is, therefore, understaffed to the extent of five nurses. The nurses reside at Alton, Andover (2), Basingstoke, Brockenhurst, Eastleigh, Fareham (2), Farnborough (2), Fordingbridge, Gosport, Havant, Itchen, Southampton, and Winchester.

Inspections made and children medically examined.

A great deal has been said about the ill-effects of the war, both at home and abroad, and the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education very naturally laments the necessary curtailment of the work in connection with medical inspection. There is no doubt, however, that the war, with its awful loss of life, has brought home to the minds of many in a way in which nothing else could have done the great importance of the conservation of infant life, and the imperative necessity of re-arranging our views generally as to the importance of the child. More progress—at all events in changed views—has been made in this direction during the past three or four years than would probably have been possible in twenty years of peace, and it is fervently to be hoped that the lessons taught by the war will not be forgotten, and that things will not be allowed to relapse into the old position.

Sir George Newman much regrets the necessary suspension of routine medical inspection, but one wonders whether this is an altogether unmixed evil. In many areas, and certainly in this County, it was not possible with the staff available to carry out routine medical inspection to the full extent contemplated by the Board of Education, and the demand for statistics necessitated such a large proportion of the medical inspector's time in performing work directly to this end that the amount of time left for taking such action as might be considered advisable to bring home to parents and guardians the necessity for attending to the health and condition of their children was not nearly so great as it ought to have been. With the suspension of the examination of routines, it was possible to devote more time to the latter, and, in my opinion, more important side of the problem, and it is gratifying to be able to record in the following pages the good results that have followed from this.

In this connection it should be made quite clear that the time of the medical inspectors in this area has not been given entirely to the examination of ailing children. In addition to the examination of children known or suspected to be in need of attention, a considerable amount of time has been given to search for

ailments, and as this has not been accompanied by the necessity for compiling statistics after the style required in routine medical inspection, the results have been all the more complete and satisfactory, and it has been possible to carry out a greater amount of real work in a shorter period of time.

Examinations by Medical Inspectors.

Year	Visits to Schools	CHILDREN	
		Routines	Other Examinations and Re-examinations
1912	1141	8015	40750
1913	1291	10736	37384
1914	1387	13785	24056
1915	1092	15610	22440
1916	706	—	28975
1917	462	—	17716
1918	553	—	16343

In examining the figures relating to medical inspection during the year 1918, one of the outstanding features to be observed is the large number of visits to schools in comparison with the number of children examined, that is, having regard to similar figures for previous years. At 553 examinations in 1918, altogether 16,343 children were examined as compared with 17,716 at 462 visits in the previous year, and 28,975 examined at 706 visits in 1916. In other words, at each visit in 1918, only 30 children were examined, as compared with 38 in 1917, and 40 in 1916. Prior to the latter year it is not possible to make comparisons, as, in addition to the inspections now being carried out, there were also the routine medical examinations. This means, in effect, that more time was given to the examination of each child, and the results of this can be seen in the following pages in the detection of a greater number of conditions not easily found at casual inspections, the more noticeable being heart affections and nervous diseases.

Visits by Nurses.

YEAR	SCHOOLS.			CHILDREN EXAMINED			HOME VISITS.
	With Medical Inspector	Nurse only	Total	Needing attention previous exam.	Not needing attention previous exam.	Total	
1915	390	1421	1811	19279	75870	95149	2414
1916	461	2118	2579	24746	120952	145698	3824
1917	254	1608	1862	22840	125987	148827	2751
1918	399	1834	2233	21980	127290	149270	2917

During 1918, there was a very considerable increase in the number of visits paid by nurses-as compared with the previous year, the figures being 2,233 and 1,862 respectively. There were increases both in the number of visits made with the medical inspector and by the nurses alone. The number of children dealt with, however, was practically the same as in the previous year, and so far as the remark applies it is therefore true to say that the nurses were thus able to give more attention to the inspection of each child just in the same way as the medical inspectors were able to give to their examinations, and it is perhaps justifiable to conclude that this additional attention is one of the causes resulting in the increased proportion of cases that received the necessary attention from parents and guardians. Not only are notices issued by the inspectors and the nurses, but large numbers of home visits are paid by the latter, and it has been possible in this way to bring home to parents in a way that could not be effected by any written or printed notice the desirability and necessity of properly caring for the child. Altogether 149,270 examinations were made, as compared with 148,827 in the previous year. The home visits numbered 2,917, an increase of 166 over the figure for 1917.

Children Requiring Parental Attention (Nurses' Inspections).

Year		Vermineous Heads	Vermineous or Dirty Bodies	Clothing Unsatis- factory	Other conditions	Total	Number excluded vermineous
1915	Cases Remedied	4048	492	404	449	5393	2205
	New Cases ...	5331	785	805	1116	8037	
1916	Cases Remedied	5469	1484	1127	995	9075	2710
	New Cases ...	5168	2098	1879	1297	10742	
1917	Cases Remedied	4780	1432	1113	923	8248	2694
	New Cases ...	5153	1854	1291	1377	9675	
1918	Cases Remedied	7172	1270	972	1059	10473	2479
	New Cases ...	4909	1430	1148	1361	8848	

Prior to the appointment of school nurses, it was possible to give but a small portion of the time to cases requiring parental attention only, but with the advent of nurses there has been no difficulty in devoting a very considerable amount of attention to these cases. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the nurses' efforts in dealing with cases have been very successful. In a previous report it has been pointed out that in examining the figures in this connection it is necessary to bear in mind that the nurses' work is still in a comparatively early stage, and that until all the schools have been thoroughly overhauled several times, the number of cases discovered is likely in any circumstances to exceed the number of cases remedied. It would probably be an excess of optimism to say that we had definitely reached the point where the number of cases remedied exceeds the number discovered, but at all events that was the position during the year 1918, and it will certainly be very satisfactory if such a

position can be maintained. During the year, the number of new cases discovered was 8,848, and altogether 10,483 received the necessary attention. These figures are extremely satisfactory, and if they can only be maintained or even approached pretty closely in future years, one will be able at last to see what may be described as the beginning of the end so far as conditions requiring parental attention are concerned. On the face of it there does not appear to be any reason why these conditions should not be reduced to a comparatively small number.

Verminous Heads.

There is one agreeable fact in connection with this disagreeable subject, and that is that in no other department of the nurses' work are the results more satisfactory. During the year under review, 4,909 children with a verminous condition of the head were discovered, but in the same period 7,172 such children received the necessary attention, that is to say, were altogether freed from the condition. The standard of cleanliness in this County is, and always has been, absolute freedom from vermin and nits.

The school medical officer is of necessity indebted to the teacher to a very considerable extent for the success of the work, and the teachers of the public elementary schools in this area have been of very great assistance, not only in the work of medical inspection itself, but still more so in the following up that is necessary if medical inspection is not to be made merely an end in itself. In connection with verminous conditions in particular, it would be difficult—in a county area it would be impossible—to make very substantial progress without the aid and cordial co-operation of the teachers. The number of nurses employed, however large, is necessarily very limited in comparison with the ground to be covered and the large numbers of children to be dealt with, and when, as unfortunately is often the case, it is necessary to exclude children from school on account of their verminous condition, it falls to the head teacher in many instances to see that the Committee's wishes in this respect are fulfilled by preventing the return of the children to school before the condition is remedied. In many schools in the County head teachers have taken a broad and enlightened view of their duties in this connection, and have from the first recognised that one of the chief aims to achieve in the education of the child is the inculcation of a reasonable standard of cleanliness. Such head teachers have—in some cases in the midst of opposition—kept stringently to the standard set by the Committee, and their efforts have resulted in the entire elimination of vermin from their schools. One cannot but recognise that in these cases to a very large extent virtue is its own reward, for the teachers' lot must be considerably more happy when they have assured themselves that they are living and working among children in a reasonably clean condition, and still more so the knowledge that they have been able to bring the importance of such a fact home to both parents and children must in itself be a source of considerable satisfaction.

In one or two schools—they are few and far between—the teachers have unfortunately taken a very narrow view, and have asserted that their business is "to teach the children," and have expressed unwillingness to have anything to do with cleanliness. Such teachers have suggested that when children are excluded from school the nurse should be in attendance when they return to see whether they are in a fit condition. A moment's consideration would show that with 350 schools spread over a large area like that of Hampshire, and with only

a small staff of nurses, such a suggestion is altogether impracticable, and would, if adopted, result in a great waste of public money. In one or two other cases, teachers who do not take this view are yet a direct cause of the defeat of the objects of the Committee by endeavouring to “keep up the attendance” by allowing children known by them to be in a verminous condition to resume attendance perhaps on the day following their exclusion. It has often been pointed out to such teachers that if they would only insist on the proper standard of cleanliness being adhered to, the result would in the end be a school entirely free from vermin, with no necessity for exclusions, and consequently greatly increased attendance.

Prosecutions.

Prosecutions for Verminous Conditions during 1918.

AREA	Total Prosecutions Recommended	PROCEEDINGS ABANDONED ON ACCOUNT OF					ACTUAL PROSECUTIONS			
		Left District	Clean	Other child of same family Prosecuted	Other Reasons	Total	Fined	Attendance Order	Warned	Dismissed
Alton	8		1	3	2	6	2			
Andover	2				2	2				
Basingstoke ...	2				2	2				
Brockenhurst ...	28			11	2	13	15			
Eastleigh	25			3	4	7	7	10		1
Fareham	52		1	3	9	13	30	4	5	
Farnborough ...	33	1	4	4	14	23	10			
Havant	23	1		1	9	11	12			
Itchen	12		2	1	2	5	7			
Romsey	69		4	13	15	32	36			1
Winchester ...	14			7	2	9	5			
TOTAL	268	2	12	46	63	123	124	14	5	2

In the Report for the year 1917 the subject of prosecution of parents and guardians for the non-attendance of school children who had been excluded on account of their verminous condition was dealt with at some length, and reference was made to the success which had attended the proceedings in Court, as well as to the difficulties that had been experienced in persuading School Attendance Committees to authorise the bringing of such cases before the Bench. These difficulties have for several years been a serious hindrance to the work, and the unfortunate reluctance of School Attendance Committees to authorise proceedings when cases have been brought to their notice by the County Medical Officer has had a serious effect on the average attendance, and consequently has resulted in a diminution of the grant payable to the Local Education Authority. Cases were not reported for prosecution to the School Attendance Committee until strenuous efforts had been made to persuade the parent to deal with the child's condition,

and until a series of notices and warnings had been issued, and it was, therefore, much to be regretted that in many instances the Committees decided to commence *de novo* with another set of warnings just as if the parent had never before heard of the matter. The natural consequence of this was that parents very quickly got to understand that no special notice need be taken of the warnings issued by the Public Health Department as no drastic step could be taken until the matter was placed in the hands of the Committee, and that the Committee would not take any action until they had warned the parent themselves either through their Secretary or the School Attendance Officer, or personally.

This unfortunate position is all the more regrettable as every effort has been made by the Public Health Department to co-operate with and assist the School Attendance Department, and very little consideration brings us to the conclusion that the amount of assistance so rendered is likely to increase, because as school attendance work becomes more efficient the problem becomes more and more a medical one. Large numbers of letters, running into several hundred a year, are received by the County Medical Officer from teachers all over the County appealing for help owing to the fact that applications to the School Attendance Officer are without result, and, in addition to these, there is a considerable volume of correspondence with the School Attendance Officers themselves, as they in many cases find it impossible to arrive at a decision as to what should be done in the matter owing to the fact that "medical grounds" are alleged for the child's absence. All these cases are dealt with by the school nurses, and, if necessary, by the medical inspectors, and in this way the Public Health Department is becoming more and more a School Attendance Department. In the words of Sir George Newman, the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, "*the work of the School Medical Officer has emphasized the fact that the problem of school attendance is, in the main, a medical problem.*" The italics are Sir George Newman's.

The following letters, dated the 2nd May, received from two Head Teachers while this Report was in the press, give some idea of the way in which the County Medical Officer is consulted on this subject:—

"Will you kindly advise me what to do concerning the attendance at this school of three children named ————. They were admitted to this school in October last. At first they attended very irregularly, but since January 29th the three children have been absent from school.

They were reported to be suffering from Influenza. When visited by the Attendance Officer the parent stated that the children are still unfit to attend school. I have received no medical certificate. The elder boy, I think, is at present working on the land."

"I beg to inform you that ———— and ————, scholars of above school, have been absent from school since 18th March last, with what the mother terms a rash. I am dubious as to what they are really suffering from, and should be pleased to know if they are in a fit state to attend school. They reside at ————.

Another boy, ————, who was absent from school, with Scabies, from 1st May to 18th November, 1918, presented a doctor's certificate to the effect that he was not to attend school for a time on 30th January last. He is still absent. Would you kindly inform me as to what steps should be taken to ascertain if he is fit to return."

In connection with this it may be interesting to refer to a report presented by the County Medical Officer to the Public Health Committee with regard to suggestions for the provision of a whole-time midwifery service in the County,

and, in particular, to the suggestion that great advantages would accrue from the combination in one officer of all the appointments of school attendance officer, school nurse, tuberculosis nurse, health visitor, visitor under the Mental Deficiency Act, and midwife. One of the obvious advantages would be that the officer's area would be a particularly restricted one, and that travelling expenses would be practically nil. It is a condition of the appointment as nurse on the Staff of the County Council that the applicant must be a certified midwife, and, in practice, all the other duties referred to above are now being carried out to a greater or less extent by the present staff. There is, therefore, nothing impracticable in the suggestion.

The following is a copy of the estimate presented to the Public Health Committee :—

Present Payments by County Council:—						£
14 Nurses at £120	...	...	...	...	...	1680
Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	630
Hants County Nursing Association	...	...	...	...	...	430
28 School Attendance Officers	...	...	...	...	...	2240
						—
						4980
Less grants	...	...	...	...	...	1340
						—
Nett Cost to County Council	...	...	...	...	...	3640
						—
County Scheme:—						£
14 Nurses as above	...	...	...	...	...	1680
Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	140
90 Nurses at £100	...	...	...	...	...	9000
Inspector of Midwives and additional clerical assistance for C.M.O.	...	...	...	...	...	500
						—
						11320
Less fees for attending confinements	...	...	...	...	...	4500
						—
						6820
Less grant from L.G.B.	...	...	...	...	...	2910
						—
Nett Cost to County Council	...	...	...	...	...	£3910
						—

It will be observed from the above figures that the scheme as outlined would involve an additional expenditure of £270, and when it is remembered that for this small outlay there would be a whole-time public midwifery service in parts of the County to take the place of the present system whereby women in those areas are attended in confinement not only by unqualified women, but in many cases by so-called "handy women," who are unquestionably a danger to the community. It should also be remembered that there would, in the event of such a scheme being adopted, no longer be any need for the payment of the very considerable sums in the way of donations to nursing associations, and the philanthropic efforts of very large numbers of people in this philanthropic County could be diverted into other channels. It should also be borne in mind that since the report referred to above was presented to the Public Health Committee, the staff of nurses has been increased from 14 to 21, and that the estimate above quoted can, therefore, be modified to its advantage to that extent. In other words, the provision of such a service would not now entail any increased expenditure whatever.

Proceedings.

It was considered necessary during the year to bring specially before the Elementary Education Sub-Committee, as well as the Public Health Committee, of the County Council, the question of taking proceedings and the way in which these should be conducted, and the following is the copy of a report presented to the two Committees on the subject :—

“Some years ago, when it became urgently necessary to deal with verminous cases, the method was adopted of excluding children from school and prosecuting the parents for their non-attendance. As the result of an adverse magisterial decision, a case was taken to the High Court, where it was decided that a child sent to school in a verminous condition was not fit to associate with other children, and that, therefore, in such circumstances proceedings for non-attendance could be sustained. This solved the difficulty as far as the legal problem was concerned, but the Attendance Officers were not familiar with cases of this kind, and in order that the facts might be presented clearly to the Justices, the Education Committee decided to appoint the County Medical Officer and his Medical Assistants as School Attendance Officers. These Officers were thus placed in a position to take the cases into Court.

The results have been very satisfactory, and but little difficulty has been experienced in presenting the cases to the Magistrates and in securing conviction. Two additional difficulties have, however, now arisen, and it is therefore necessary to bring the matter forward again for the consideration both of the Public Health and Housing Committee and the Elementary Education Sub-Committee. Owing to the very great increase in the work of the Assistant Medical Officers, it is impossible to find time for them to deal with cases of this kind. The cases might in many instances be taken into court by the School Attendance Officers, some of whom are now familiar with the procedure, but for some time past it has happened that districts have been without the services of a School Attendance Officer for a considerable period. Also when there is an Attendance Officer, he or she is not always conversant with the procedure, and the total result has been a very serious delay in dealing with many cases, and a consequent substantial loss of grant to the Local Education Authority.

In these circumstances it is suggested that the County Medical Officer's Chief Clerk and the Health Visitors (School Nurses) should be appointed School Attendance Officer in the same way as the County Medical Officer, and his Assistants were appointed in order that they could, when necessity arose, take cases of this kind into Court. It may be added that for several years Health Visitors have been doing a large amount of work partaking of the nature of a School Attendance Officer's duties. Cases are constantly being referred in very large numbers to the Public Health Department, not only by the Director of Education and the Head Teachers, but also by the School Attendance Officers themselves. It is an obvious fact that the more efficient a School Attendance Scheme becomes, the more largely does absence from school

become a medical problem, and it is therefore only natural to expect that cases of absence are likely to be referred in increasing numbers to the Medical Department."

The Public Health Committee agreed to their Officers acting in the way suggested, but the Elementary Education Sub-Committee, after very carefully considering the subject, came to the conclusion that it would be advisable to appoint a Superintendent School Attendance Officer and to abolish the Local School Attendance Committees. The new arrangement comes into operation on the 1st April, 1919. Before leaving this subject it is necessary and desirable to refer to an objection that has been raised to the use of school nurses as prosecuting School Attendance Officers. It has been put forward that this would place the nurse in an unfortunate and objectionable position in so far as her relations with parents are concerned, but those who have advanced this idea have apparently overlooked the fact that the school nurse's position in this connection would not be materially different from what it is now. In practice, in connection with verminous cases the School Attendance Officer is no more than a figurehead. He takes the necessary formal steps to secure the issue of a summons, and when the case is called in Court he is in formal charge thereof, but the Nurse is the witness to the facts, and the School Attendance Officer is at the best no more than prosecuting advocate, while the Nurse is really in the place of complainant. Parents, therefore, if they consider the matter in that light at all, must regard the nurse in the present circumstances as the real "enemy," and to bring about the change whereby the nurse would take the formal, as well as the real, position of complainant would not make any material difference.

Verminous or Dirty Bodies.

Although the figures in connection with this subject are very satisfactory, and are an improvement on those of the previous year, they are not so good as the results in the verminous cases. Altogether 1,430 cases of neglect in this respect were discovered, and 1,270 were remedied. It is probable that the verminous cases, i.e., verminous conditions of the head, are dealt with more readily because the condition is exposed and more likely to be noticed by the inspector or nurse.

Clothing.

The position with regard to children needing attention to their clothing is very much the same as in the previous year, 1,148 new cases having been discovered, and 972 having been remedied, as compared with 1,291 and 1,113 respectively in the year 1916. The figures for these two years show very great improvement as compared with the years 1915-16, when the numbers of cases dealt with were little more than half the numbers discovered.

Children Requiring Medical Attention.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	3719	2155	57.95 %	1564
1917	2436	1370	56.24 %	1066
1918	3098	2419	78.08 %	679

In this County the view adopted from the first has been to subordinate the clerical to the medical work, and not only so, but to subordinate the purely clinical investigation to the problem of securing treatment for the children needing attention. In many areas a certain amount of very interesting work has been carried out by going very carefully into details concerning a comparatively small number of children, with the result that the proportion of time actually devoted to attempting to obtain treatment has to be very small compared with the amount of time entailed in making a complete and full examination of the child and in recording the results of such examination. This method of procedure has undoubtedly been encouraged by the demand for statistics. In this area it has been possible to devote a large proportion of the Medical Inspectors' and Nurses' time to the following up of cases known to need attention, and hundreds of thousands of notices have been sent to the parents calling their attention to their responsibility with regard to their children, and strongly urging upon them the necessity of taking steps to obtain the necessary treatment without delay.

In the earlier pages of this Report, reference is made to the satisfactory results which have followed from the possibility of giving more time to examinations and less time to the compilation of statistics as required by routine medical inspection, and the figures in the accompanying table are to be regarded with a very considerable amount of satisfaction. Some 3,098 children were discovered during the year to need medical attention, and no less than 2,419 received treatment in the same period. One wonders whether this very substantial improvement over the previous year is attributable to any extent to the more extended recognition by employers of the fact that the cost of living had very greatly increased owing to war conditions, and to the consequent considerable advance in wages. It has been pointed out from time to time in these reports that many conditions remain untreated because the parents are not in a position to afford the cost of such treatment, and there is no doubt that in this County, as well as in all other Counties in England, there are large numbers of people whose incomes are such that they are able to live more or less comfortably so long as nothing special happens, but directly there is anything exceptional, as, for example, a case of illness in the house, the family is placed in great difficulties. It is also to be remembered that these are the very people who object most strongly to having recourse to assistance from the Poor Law, and that the individual requiring treatment must go without it, or the other members of the family must be satisfied with less than their normal and proper supply of food. It is probably quite reasonable in these circumstances to regard the great improvement referred to above as due in a considerable measure to the advance in wages.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding the good results indicated in the previous paragraphs, there remain considerable numbers of children who for one cause or another, poverty or ignorance of the parents, remain without medical treatment, however persistent the efforts of the Staff of the School Medical Officer to induce them to take action. It is hoped that the time will soon arrive when provision will be made for cases of this kind. Undoubtedly it would be possible to deal with most of them by means of school clinics, and now that the County Council has established Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in a large number of centres in the County, very little extension would be required to enable many of the school children needing medical treatment to be dealt with

at these centres. There is one condition, very often lightly regarded, which results in a considerable loss of grant owing to reduced attendance, that could be dealt with without much difficulty by the Nurses, acting under the instructions of the Medical Inspectors. This condition, ringworm, is more or less prevalent all over the County at all times of the year, and the position with regard to it does not seem to improve. Although notices are sent to the parents, the matter is not at first regarded seriously, and, in consequence, the condition spreads and becomes aggravated until it is really a very serious problem. Without taking any bold step in the way of providing general treatment, it might be well for the Committee to consider the question of applying to the Board of Education for authority to treat cases of Ringworm at their homes or at County Council "Centres." The actual expense would be trifling, and would undoubtedly result in increased grant.

Teeth.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	1898	903	47.14 %	995
1917	723	643	88.93 %	80
1918	841	888	105.59 %	—

In the Report for 1917 it was possible to record a great improvement in the number of teeth conditions dealt with, the number of cases treated being 89 per cent. of the number discovered, and it is gratifying to be able to record a still further improvement, 888 cases having received treatment during the year, while only 841 were discovered. It would be unwise, however, to be unduly optimistic about these figures, as the number discovered, compared with the numbers in earlier years, is small, and there is no doubt that in this County, as well as all over the Country, about 50 per cent. of the children are suffering to a greater or less degree through want of attention to dental conditions. It does not appear to be advisable to continue without making some special arrangements for such conditions to be dealt with, and there is no doubt that it would be real economy to appoint a school dentist. Money thus spent would be laid out to a greater advantage than money expended in compiling statistics about the children's condition, and in sending notices to parents who are not in a position to pay for the treatment required.

Malnutrition.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	97	70	72.17 %	27
1917	112	34	30.35 %	78
1918	195	138	70.77 %	57

In dealing with the general question of children needing medical attention, reference has been made to the great improvements that have been noticeable during the year in the number of children dealt with, and particularly to the fact that some, at all events, of this improvement should be attributed to the advance in the wages of the working classes in the County; and the figures in the accompanying table with respect to children found to be suffering from malnutrition bear out this suggestion to a great extent. Insufficient wages must mean in many cases lack of food or improper food, and lack of food results in malnutrition. In 1917, only 34 cases received treatment, as compared with 112 discovered, while in 1918, 138 were dealt with, as compared with 195 discovered.

Skin Disease.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	242	215	88.84 %	27
1917	266	143	53.75 %	123
1918	252	196	77.78 %	56

There is a remarkable improvement to be recorded in connection with the treatment of children suffering from diseases of the skin, but the position is even now not so good as it was in 1916, when 215 cases were treated and 242 discovered. There was a big drop in 1917, when 266 were discovered and only 143 treated. In the year under review 252 were discovered, and 196 received treatment. In another section of this Report it is suggested that authority should be given for the treatment of cases of Ringworm. This could be done at a trifling cost, and would undoubtedly result in a considerable improvement in the attendance, with a consequent increase of grant, probably greater than the actual cost of treatment. Ringworm is a serious problem in this County, as it is all over the Country, owing mainly to the fact that in the first stages parents do not regard the matter as of much importance, and the condition is allowed to continue and to spread until its cure is a matter of very great difficulty.

There is no doubt that the good work that has been accomplished during the year 1918 must be ascribed to a large extent as the results of home visits paid by the Nurses. In many cases parents take but little notice of documents sent them by the Medical Inspector, while they are prepared to listen to and act upon the advice of a sympathetic and intelligent school nurse.

Ringworm.

During the year there were 282 exclusions on account of Ringworm as compared with 350 in the previous year. Obvious cases of the disease are excluded by the Medical Inspectors at their visits, and in doubtful cases specimens of hairs are taken and sent to the laboratory in the County Medical Officer's Department for examination. Altogether 328 such specimens were taken in 1918 and 200 of these on examination gave a positive result. The corresponding figures in the previous year were 308 and 250 respectively.

Heart Disease.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	21	19	90.47 %	2
1917	29	16	55.17 %	13
1918	139	53	38.13 %	86

In an earlier section of this Report attention is drawn to the increased amount of time that it was possible to give in 1918 to the examination of each child, and it has been suggested that this may account for the larger number of certain conditions than were discovered during the year as compared with former years. It will be observed that 139 children were found to need attention on account of the condition of their heart, and this number very greatly exceeds the numbers in previous years, only 29 having been detected in 1917, and 21 in 1916. Many of the cases discovered were of a much less glaring type, and would not have been detected except at a more or less thorough examination. It is pleasant to be able to record that 53 cases received attention during the year.

Lung Disease.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	62	48	77.41 %	14
1917	60	25	41.66 %	35
1918	113	116	102.65 %	—

Evidence appears to be accumulating that the establishment by the County Council of a Tuberculosis Scheme, and the provision in connection therewith of treatment for school children, is becoming much more widely known, and it will be noticed that while in 1917, 60 children were found to have lung disease, and only 25 were treated, in 1918 the number discovered was 113, and the number treated 116. There is no doubt that but for such a Scheme the great majority of these children would have remained without attention. All cases of suspected cases discovered by the Inspectors are at once referred to the nearest dispensary for thorough examination, and as the Inspectors are themselves Tuberculosis Officers, there is no possibility of lack of co-ordination and co-operation, and, in addition, the combination in the one individual of both functions ensures a very much higher standard of accuracy in the preliminary diagnosis. There is no charge for treatment under the Scheme, and the railway fares of both parents and children attending dispensaries are refunded to them if they are in poor circumstances.

Several teachers have been of very great assistance in bringing the advantages of the County Council Tuberculosis Scheme to the notice of parents, and considerable help has also been given by correspondents of schools and the local clergy.

Tubercle, Non-Pulmonary.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	15	3	20.00 %	12
1917	16	9	56.25 %	7
1918	56	32	57.14 %	24

The outstanding feature in connection with this disease is the large number of cases discovered during the year, and it is satisfactory, therefore, to be able to state that 32 cases, as compared with a total of 56 discovered, actually received treatment. The County is under a very great debt of gratitude to the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital at Alton for the extremely efficient, painstaking, and remarkably successful way in which these cases are dealt with, and it is very fortunate that the County Council has been able to enter into an arrangement with the Trustees of the Institution whereby children from this area are received there for prolonged treatment. The arrangement is a very satisfactory one, and is a great boon to parents in poor circumstances, and is much appreciated. In one or two cases parents have paid a shilling or two a week towards the cost of the treatment of their children, but in the great majority the total charge is borne by the County Council.

Nose and Throat.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	358	341	95.25 %	17
1917	388	172	44.32 %	216
1918	475	361	76.00 %	114

In the report for the year 1917, attention was drawn to the remarkable falling off in the number of cases of this condition treated during that year as compared with the number in the previous year. In 1918 the figures approached more nearly to those of 1916, and altogether 361 cases were treated, while 475 were discovered. The urgent necessity of making some special arrangements for dealing with cases of this kind was brought before the Committee during the year, and it is hoped that at an early date it will be possible to make a start in having operations for the removal of adenoids and enlarged tonsils carried out at Cottage Hospitals and other suitable places.

Defective Hearing.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	28	16	57.14 %	12
1917	31	16	51.61 %	15
1918	32	16	50.00 %	16

There is an extraordinary similarity in the number of these cases discovered from year to year. In 1916 the number was 28, the following year 31, and in 1918 there were 32. In each of these three years the number treated was 16. Bearing in mind the indifference of parents generally to cases of this kind, and their attitude of "nothing-can-be-done," it is very satisfactory to notice that the percentage of cases dealt with is so high.

Ear Disease.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	33	27	81.81 %	6
1917	19	14	28.69 %	35
1918	37	25	67.57 %	12

It has already been necessary in other sections of this report to refer to the fact that while there was a relapse in 1917 from the position of 1916, the position of 1918 has reverted to that of two years previously. There was in many directions in 1917 an unpleasant falling off in the number of cases dealt with, and it has been suggested in another part of this report that this was due to the lowered value of money and to the subsequent inability of parents to pay for treatment. The increase in wages brought about more recently has enabled parents to provide medical attention for their children. That 25 cases were treated, while the number discovered was 37, is to be regarded as very satisfactory.

Defective Vision (and Squint).

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	617	292	47.33 %	325
1917	467	185	39.61 %	282
1918	459	261	56.86 %	198

This is another section of the work in which the position is more similar to that of 1916 than 1917. Some 261 cases were treated in 1918, while 459 were discovered. It should be explained that when reference is made to the number of cases treated in this as in other departments of the work, it is meant to convey that it was ascertained during the year that that number of cases had received treatment. Many other cases are dealt with without the matter coming to the knowledge of the Department at the time, and this is borne out by the fact that during the year spectacles were supplied to children. All these cases are children who have received notices from the Medical Inspectors, and who have either attended the County Eye Clinic or been examined by an Ophthalmic Surgeon at a hospital or elsewhere, and obtained spectacles through the County Council Scheme, and only a proportion of these cases appear in the number 261 referred to above.

In the early days of Medical Inspection, when the Assistant Medical Officers were mainly engaged in this work, and were thus free on Saturdays, it was possible to arrange for Eye Clinics to be held on these days in the school premises. With the advent of the Tuberculosis Scheme necessitating attendance at Dispensaries, and on the introduction of other work in connection with Mental Deficiency, Maternity, and Child Welfare, and the treatment of Venereal Diseases, the services of the Assistant Medical Officers are not to any great extent available for refraction work on Saturdays. In these circumstances it has been necessary to arrange for Eye Clinics to be held on ordinary week days, when the schools are in session, and as very few schools have accommodation sufficient to enable the work of an Eye Clinic to be carried on at the same time as school work, it has been necessary in some cases to secure for the day the use of two or three rooms elsewhere. In a good many instances, owing to the generosity of interested local residents, no charge has been entailed, but in a few cases a small payment, usually 5s. or 7s. 6d., has had to be made for the use of the rooms, etc., for the day.

Owing to the accumulation of cases of defective vision all over the County, and to the difficulty, in many instances the impossibility, of securing treatment, the matter was specially brought before the Elementary Education Committee during the year, and in the end, an arrangement was made for the holding of a weekly clinic by Mr. A. Zorab, F.R.C.S., the Ophthalmic Surgeon, Southampton Eye Hospital, and of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. These clinics are held on Mondays alternately at the two hospitals mentioned, and are already proving a great boon.

In connection with cases of defective vision, it is too often forgotten that there may be within the school premises causes contributing to defects of vision, and that while these exist it may be claimed that the school conditions are causing unnecessary expenditure, both on the part of the parents and the Local Education Authority.

There is no doubt that in many of the schools in this County insufficient lighting and rooms badly arranged are the causes of many cases of defective vision. The school curriculum, moreover, still includes sewing for small children.

External Eye Disease.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	94	50	53.82 %	44
1917	84	42	50.00 %	42
1918	85	50	58.82 %	35

The position with respect to External Eye Disease is very similar to that of the previous two years. Altogether 85 cases were discovered in 1918, and 50 received treatment. In the previous year 84 were discovered, and 42 received treatment, while in 1916, there were 94 and 50 respectively.

Deformity.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	26	10	38.46 %	16
1917	27	7	25.92 %	20
1918	14	11	78.57 %	3

Cases of this kind are in many instances obviously difficult to deal with, and it is therefore with great satisfaction that the accompanying table is produced showing that while 14 cases were discovered during the year 11 received treatment. This is a great advance on all previous figures, and it will be noticed that in 1917 the number discovered was 27, while only 7 received treatment.

Nervous Disease.

Year	Discovered needing attention during the year	Number treated during the year	Proportion of Cases treated to Cases discovered	Untreated
1916	16	9	56.25 %	7
1917	23	1	4.34 %	22
1918	100	19	19.00 %	81

There is a very remarkable increase in the number of cases of this disease discovered, and, as has been suggested in the earlier pages of this report, it is more than probable that this has been brought about by the increased amount of time that has been given to the examination of each child. During the year, 100 such cases were recorded, and 19 received treatment. There is obviously very great difficulty in dealing with these cases, not only from the nature of the disease itself, but also from the absence of suitable surroundings for treating the condition.

Co-relation of School and Public Health Services.

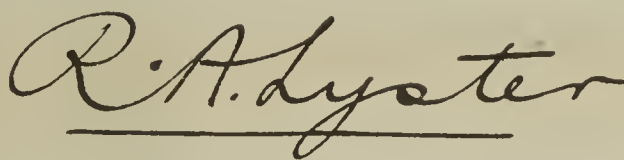
There has been no difficulty from the first in arranging for the most cordial co-operation between the School and Public Health Services in this County. As there is, and has always been, the same staff for school and for County Public Health work, the matter has been very much simplified. In another section of this report reference is made to the large numbers of visits paid by the Nurses to the children's homes. At these visits the insanitary conditions and other matters needing attention are noticed by the nurses and reported upon to the County Medical Officer, who thereupon communicates with the Local Medical Officer of Health on the subject, with a view to the conditions being remedied. Between three and four hundred letters a year are written to Medical Officers of Health as the result of Nurses' visits to the homes, and in a large number of cases improvements have been brought about as a result of the subsequent action of the Local Sanitary Authority. No doubt the number of cases dealt with would be much greater but for the present abnormal circumstances, the difficulty or impossibility

of securing adequate housing accommodation in some districts, and the almost insuperable difficulty in obtaining the necessary labour to carry out alterations and improvements.

All cases and suspected cases of infectious disease known to the Head Teachers are reported by them to the Medical Officer of Health and the County Medical Officer on cards supplied by the latter. These cards give the child's name and address, the disease, and the last day at school. This system has been of great advantage to both Medical Officers in keeping in touch with the question of epidemic disease, in endeavouring to prevent its spread, and in deciding as to the advantage and disadvantage of school closure.

Medical Examination of Pupil Teachers.

During the year 119 candidates were examined. One was rejected, and in 83 other cases certification was delayed in order that certain defects might be remedied. Of these 83 cases, as usual, teeth conditions accounted for the greatest proportion, no less than 58 candidates requiring attention in this respect. Other conditions included defective vision 8, unvaccinated 4, needing revaccination 35, and suspected tuberculosis 2.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. A. Lyster", which is underlined.

School Medical Officer.

Public Health Department,
The Castle.
Winchester.

AMELIORATIVE WORK IN 1918.

URBAN.

	Discovered Needing Attention during Year 1918.	Treated during Year 1918.		Untreated.
		No.	Percentage	
Total Medical Defects Needing Attention	1309	1004	76.70	305
Teeth	293	342	116.72	—
Malnutrition	89	76	85.39	13
Skin Disease	123	75	60.98	48
Heart Disease	57	22	38.60	35
Lung Disease	43	61	141.81	—
Tubercle, Non-Pulmonary	29	13	44.83	16
Nose and Throat	234	162	69.23	72
Defective Hearing	12	6	50.00	6
Ear Disease	20	14	70.00	6
Defective Vision (and Squint)	163	102	62.58	61
External Eye Disease	33	18	54.55	15
Deformity	4	5	125.00	—
Nervous Disease	48	6	12.50	42
Other Conditions	161	102	63.35	59
Total needing Parental Attention	636	628	98.74	8
Verminous Heads	261	325	124.52	—
Verminous or Dirty Bodies	96	112	116.67	—
Clothing and Boots	176	138	78.41	38
Other Conditions	103	53	51.46	50

AMELIORATIVE WORK IN 1918.

RURAL.

	Discovered Needing Attention during Year 1918.	Treated during Year 1918,		Untreated.
		No.	Percentage	
Total Medical Defects Needing Attention	1789	1415	79.09	374
Teeth	548	546	99.64	2
Malnutrition	106	62	60.78	44
Skin Disease	129	121	93.80	8
Heart Disease	82	31	37.80	51
Lung Disease	70	55	78.57	15
Tubercle, Non-Pulmonary ...	27	19	70.37	8
Nose and Throat	241	199	82.57	42
Defective Hearing	20	10	50.00	10
Ear Disease	17	11	64.71	6
Defective Vision (and Squint)	296	159	53.72	137
External Eye Disease ...	52	32	61.54	20
Deformity	10	6	60.00	4
Nervous Disease	52	13	25.00	39
Other Conditions	139	151	108.63	—
Total needing Parental Attention	1133	984	86.85	149
Verminous Heads	392	501	127.81	—
Verminous or Dirty Bodies ...	223	176	78.92	47
Clothing and Boots	271	204	82.66	67
Other Conditions	247	103	41.70	144

AMELIORATIVE WORK IN 1918.

COUNTY.

	Discovered Needing Attention during Year 1918.	Treated during Year 1918.		Untreated
		No.	Percentage	
Total Medical Defects Needing Attention	3098	2419	78·08	679
Teeth	841	888	105·59	—
Malnutrition	195	138	70·77	57
Skin Disease	252	196	77·78	56
Heart Disease	139	53	38·13	86
Lung Disease	113	116	102·65	—
Tubercle, Non-Pulmonary	56	32	57·14	24
Nose and Throat	475	361	76·00	114
Defective Hearing	32	16	50·00	16
Ear Disease	37	25	67·57	12
Defective Vision (and Squint)	459	261	56·86	198
External Eye Disease	85	50	58·82	35
Deformity	14	11	78·57	3
Nervous Disease	100	19	19·00	81
Other Conditions	300	253	84·33	47
Total needing Parental Attention	1769	1612	91·12	157
Verminous Heads	653	826	126·49	—
Verminous or Dirty Bodies	319	288	90·28	31
Clothing and Boots	447	342	76·51	105
Other Conditions	350	156	44·87	194

SCHOOL CLOSURES DURING 1918.

CAUSE OF CLOSURE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR							
	Under One Week	1 to 2 Weeks	2 to 3 Weeks	3 to 4 Weeks	4 to 5 Weeks	5 to 6 Weeks	6 to 11 Weeks	11 Weeks and over
Scarlet Fever -	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria -	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	—
Measles -	—	1	9	48	17	11	2	3
German Measles -	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough -	—	6	6	5	5	1	3	3
Mumps -	—	—	—	7	3	3	—	—
Chicken Pox -	—	3	2	4	1	1	—	—
Influenza -	2	42	124	85	21	10	3	1

CHILDREN NEEDING SPECIAL PROVISION UNDER THE—

- {

Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.
Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899 & 1914.
Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

	Number who on examination have been found to need Special Provision in Special Schools or Institutions	Number of Children provided for in Special Schools or Institutions		Number of Children needing Special Provision	Number of Children Notified to the Mental Deficiency Committee as ineducable
		Day Schools	Residential Schools		
Blind or Partially Blind	21	—	17*	4	—
Deaf and Dumb -	27	—	21	6	—
Epileptic -	15	—	4	11	—
Cripples -	12	—	—	12	—
Mentally Defective -	171	16‡	2	153	103‡
Totals -	246	16	44	186	103

* 2 of these have been placed in Institutions through voluntary agencies, and are not maintained at the C.C.'s expense.

‡ 5 of these Notified Children are at present permitted to attend the Special Class for Mentally Defective Children, making a total of 18 Children in Special Classes.

